



Special EU Programmes Body  
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE  
Special EU Skemes Boadie

# Citizens' Summary: Annual Implementation Report 2021

**Total  
Programme  
Value  
€270m**

## What does the PEACE IV Programme do?

The PEACE Programme is a unique cross-border EU initiative designed to support peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Since 1995, the programme has provided almost €2.3bn in funding to tens of thousands of projects which have helped to create a more cohesive and forward-looking society.




The current programme, PEACE IV has four distinct areas where it is continuing to make meaningful change. It supports vulnerable children and young people; tackles sectarianism and racism; creates new shared spaces and services; and funds shared education.

 **96 projects supported**

 **€278.8m committed to date**

## Shared Education

What has been achieved under shared education?

-  **492** schools involved
-  **92,534** children participating
-  **2,083** teachers trained

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## Children & Young People




How have children and young people been supported?

-  **29** projects supported
-  **27,853** young people participating
-  **59%** of participants of one project felt that relations between Protestants & Catholics had improved in the last 5 years

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## Shared Space & Services

What shared spaces & services have been created?

-  **26** new shared spaces
-  **3,864** citizens receiving advocacy support
-  **9,939** citizens receiving resilience support

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## Building Positive Relations

What has been done to combat racism & sectarianism?

-  **38** projects supported in total
-  **13** projects now completed
-  **17** local PEACE Action plans engaging participants in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between people from different communities

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\*The above figures, under each theme, are self-reported by funded projects and subject to final verification.

# What is being funded?

## JOURNEYS

The four year cross-border Journey's project was designed to give its young beneficiaries life-changing experiences by meeting new people from a range of different backgrounds and exploring diversity in a safe and supportive environment.

Throughout the challenges of COVID-19, the programme used creative and innovative ways to engage young people online. For many young people this helped to structure their day, gave them access to much needed support and helped to combat the loneliness and isolation they were experiencing.

The project was delivered by Springboard Opportunities Limited alongside Roe Valley Residents Association and Cavan/Monaghan Education & Training Board.

### By the end of the project:

- ▶ **94%** were happy with their confidence,
- ▶ **96%** found it easy to respect someone from a difficult background,
- ▶ **91%** were happy to work as part of a team, solve problems with friends/family/community,
- ▶ **81%** progressed on to further education, employment or training,
- ▶ **96%** said that it made a major positive impact on their life.



## SHANKILL SHARED WOMEN'S CENTRE

Construction has started on the new Shankill Shared Women's Centre to coincide with International Women's Day 2022.

The €6.5 million EU-funded centre for women and their families near Lanark Way will be the new home for Shankill Women's Centre.

It will be shared with Clonard Women's Group, enabling a broad range of services to be delivered jointly to women and families from both communities.



## FUTURE INNOVATORS

Areas suffering disproportionately from the legacy of the conflict are to be targeted in a new project led by Co-operation Ireland that seeks to boost the social economy through targeted funding.

Officially launched at the end of October 2021 the Future Innovators project aims to further peacebuilding and reconciliation within and between communities on a cross-border basis by supporting social innovation projects through trainings, individual support and a digital toolkit (app).

Social innovation projects identify unfulfilled needs of people and communities. Projects can range from social supermarkets that provide employment and services in the areas they are based, to digital democracy tools that empower people to have a greater say on local decision-making.



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